

## Supersonic Striking Force's Jets Arrive for Duty at Florida Base

Special to the New York Times.

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla., Oct. 21.—The 10th Air Force, which went to London in 1954, arrived at McDill Air Force Base, outside Tampa, headquarters of the Air Force's ready striking force.

Col. Dave Willis, spokesman for the Tactical Air Force headquarters at Langley Air Force Base, in Virginia, said that the planes had been dispatched from the Composite Air Force, the swiftest fighting unit of the Tactical Air Force.

Colonel Willis said there was no connection between the arrival of the black air striking force and the Cuban situation. He said the plane were on a normal rotation flight to familiarize themselves with runways and facilities.

The special striking force, comprising an estimated number of 50 to 75 planes, arrived Wednesday. Increased security precautions have been in effect at the base since then.

The planes here include RF-100's, supersonic single jet fighters, RF-105 Voodoos, supersonic aerial photographic planes capable of reconnaissance up to 50,000 feet, and RB-66's, a reconnaissance version of the Douglas B-66 two-jet plane. The RB-66 is specially designed for electromagnetic reconnaissance missions.

McDill is both a Strategic Air Force and a Tactical Air

Force base. It has two wings of TAC F-84F fighters and the 306th Bombardment Wing, SAC, which is made up of about 50 medium B-47 jets.

With the arrival of the 10th Air Force, the base has been on a full alert. This was described by a public relations spokesman yesterday as "a practice alert."

The spokesman said, "There is a lot going on out there." To requests for permission for photographers to take pictures of the newly arrived crews, the spokesman said, "frankly you would just be in the way." He said there were also "security problems."

Later telephone calls to the base were refused with the statement that there was a "SAC alert". However, the alert was described as "nominal and not all out." It was again denied that the activity had any relationship to Cuba.

When efforts were made to call Strategic Air Force information officers, it was said there is no one available in the information office.

So far as is known here the planes are still at the McDill base. The Strategic force normally includes a formation of C-130 transports for the movement of airborne troops and paratroops. Whether any C-130's are included in the planes here was not known.

# To Stiffen Ban On Cuba Ships

By JERRY GREENE  
Military Editor of THE NEWS

Washington, Oct. 21. — Top officials were reported working tonight on a major move in the Cuban crisis, to be announced in the next 48 hours.

It is expected to be an executive order by President Kennedy drastically tightening the American quarantine on shipping to the Communist-ruled island.

The new move involves U.S. Navy ships, but not for an invasion of Cuba. Officials shied away from questions on whether warships would actually stop and inspect Soviet and other vessels to prevent them from carrying arms to Cuba—an act virtually amounting to blockade with obvious dangers.

American ships may simply closely shadow ships going to and from Cuba, harassing them.

## Ike Invoked Embargo

Two years ago this week former President Eisenhower—also just before an election—invoked the first American embargo on Cuba and cut off shipments of U.S. goods except food and medicine.

While President Kennedy made a quick recovery from the cold that caused him suddenly to cut short a Western political swing yesterday and return to Washington, many top officials worked in the Pentagon and State Department instead of taking Sunday off as usual.

There was speculation that the President's cold—irritating but not unusual—had been treated as a "diplomatic illness" to cover some official need to return here from Chicago more than 24 hours ahead of schedule.

## Pulse, Temperature Normal

The President's doctor found his pulse and temperature normal today, and his nasal congestion cleared up. Kennedy went to church this morning, then was described as relaxing at the White House with his family.

But there were too many brass hats involved in conferences this afternoon to believe that Kennedy wasn't being consulted.

Secretary of State Rusk was at his desk at State. On the job in the Defense Department were, among others, Sen. Maxwell D. Taylor, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; Secretary of the Navy Fred C. D. and Adm. George W. Anderson Jr., chief of naval operations.

U.S. troops, ships and planes were reported to be in the Caribbean, alerted to the air of the crisis.



(NEWS map by Staff Artist)  
U.S. military training maneuvers are taking place off Puerto Rico (X).

pending move against Cuba. They might have a psychological effect on Fidel Castro, though.

## Armada Off Puerto Rico

The movements in the Caribbean area are part of extensive naval maneuvers which had long been planned, involving about 40 ships, 20,000 men and carrier-based aircraft. The armada arrived this morning off Vieques Island, Puerto Rico, to stage an invasion of a mythical republic called Vieques.

Landing on Vieques during the exercises which last until Oct. 30 will be the 6,000-man 4th Marine Expeditionary Brigade. It includes a 1,200-man rifle battalion that was flown from Camp Pendleton, Calif., to Camp Lejeune, N.C.

Vieques, just east of Puerto Rico, is separated from Cuba by both Puerto Rico and the island of Hispaniola, shared by Haiti and the Dominican Republic.

(Picture in centerfold)